



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

File No. 156

Senate Bill No. 1004

Senate, March 26, 2013

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. LEBEAU of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE EXPORTATION OF STATE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 32-7g of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (c) The commissioner shall establish a streamlined application
5 process for the Small Business Express program. The small business
6 applicant may receive assistance pursuant to said program not later
7 than thirty days after submitting a completed application to the
8 department. Any small business meeting the eligibility criteria in
9 subsection (a) of this section may apply to said program. The
10 commissioner shall give priority for available funding to (1) small
11 businesses creating jobs, [and] (2) economic base industries, as defined
12 in subsection (d) of section 32-222, including, but not limited to, those
13 in the fields of precision manufacturing, business services, green and

14 sustainable technology, bioscience and information technology, and (3)
15 businesses attempting to export their products or services to foreign
16 markets.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	32-7g(c)

CE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to give priority of Small Business Express Program assistance to businesses seeking to export their products to foreign markets. These changes do not result in a fiscal impact because the amount of funding available to the program is unchanged under the bill.¹

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ PA 11-1 of the October Special Session authorized \$100 million to the Small Business Express Program. PA 13-2 authorized an additional \$ 60 million in General Obligation bonds for the program, increasing its total bond authorization to \$160 million. As of March 13, 2013, the State Bond Commission had allocated \$140 million to the program.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1004*****AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE EXPORTATION OF STATE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the economic and community development (DECD) commissioner, when distributing funds for the Small Business Express Program, to give priority to businesses seeking to export their products or services to foreign markets. The commissioner must already give priority for this program to (1) small businesses creating jobs and (2) economic base industries in the precision manufacturing, business services, green and sustainable technology, and bioscience and information technology fields.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND***Small Business Express Program***

The Small Business Express Program provides deferrable or forgivable loans and matching grants to state-based small businesses and small manufacturers. Loan and grant amounts range from \$10,000 to \$300,000. The DECD commissioner must work with eligible applicants to create packages combining the loans or grants with assistance provided under other DECD programs.

Economic Base Industries

These are businesses the commissioner determines will materially contribute to the state's economy by (1) creating or retaining jobs; (2) exporting, encouraging innovation in, or adding value to products or services; or (3) otherwise supporting or enhancing existing activities important to the state's economy (CGS § 32-222 (d)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/12/2013)